

Politics

From Coast to Coast, Here's How Artists Are Mobilizing Before the Midterm Elections

From poster-making parties to canvassing neighborhood, the art world is taking on the midterm elections in cities around the country.

Caroline Goldstein, November 2, 2018

Ahead of the midterm elections, the art world—an historically politically minded assortment of institutions and individuals—has made a strong push in its showing of support for social activism and consciousness-raising.

In the two years since Donald Trump's election to the White House, the art news cycle has become increasingly dominated by stories that involve politics, from the ramifications of new tax laws and tariffs that have a ripple-effect on the secondary market and international dealings to the phenomenon of social-media based movements like #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter being channeled into visual and performance-based artworks.

Although, in the past, political art has been a reactive endeavor, there is currently a groundswell of artistic activity taking place in the run-up to next Tuesday's nationwide elections, which are widely seen as a referendum on Trump's leadership—with Democrats hoping to at least gain a majority in the House of Representatives and become a check on the president. New York mainstay Jeffrey Deitch has donated his gallery space as a ground zero for a week-long "Protest Factory" for community members to engage with artists in advance of the elections. As the art dealer told artnet News, most of the people—artists and art lovers alike—who are attending these events have strong political beliefs and were already planning to vote, "but we hope to set an example for how other communities can mobilize."

Here are just some of events and activities happening from New York to Los Angeles ahead of the midterms.

CRISTIN TIERNEY

“Neil Goldberg: VOTE IN THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS”

Cristin Tierney Gallery



Installation view of “Neil Goldberg: VOTE IN THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS”, 2018. Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York. Photo by John Muggenborg.

Longtime New York resident Neil Goldberg is making the personal political in his new show at Cristin Tierney. The works on display are based on his index-card-based system for tracking his creative ideas and work flow, and the artist will stage interactive performances with viewers each weekend during the show’s run—except this Saturday, when he’ll be canvassing local neighborhoods to get out the vote.

On view through December 15; Cristin Tierney Gallery is located at 540 West 28th Street